Cultivation of lands lying fallow.

47 *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether, in view of the great difficulty in importing rice and other food stuff into Travancore, on account of the present war situation, they have taken any action to encourage cultivation of lands lying fallow and fit for cultivation of food crops; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*a*) and (*b*). The officers of the Department of Agriculture have been carrying on propaganda among agriculturists on the necessity of augmenting our food production, and inducing them to adopt methods of intensive farming with a view to obtain the maximum yield from their lands.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): May I know from Government whether additional lands have been brought under cultivation for the current year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir; a small area has been brought under cultivation.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH: May I know the extent of that land?

MR. K R. NARAYANA AIYAR: About 200 acres in North Travancore under the Lift Irrigation scheme.

Petrol Rationing.

48 *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have amended the rule issued by them to say that one unit denoting a petrol coupon is only half a gallon, in view of the later change made in British India to the effect that one unit is equivalent to one gallon?

MR. C KUMARA DAS (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Construction of a dam and a lock across the thodu in Vengoor pakuthy.

49. *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any application from wet land owners in Kunnatnad taluk praying for the construction of a dam and a lock, under the Minor Irrigation rules, across the thodu in S. No. 842/1 of Vengoor pakuthy;

(*b*) whether they have made any local inspection;

(*c*) whether any action was taken thereon; and

(*d*) if so, at what stage is it?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A detailed estimate for Rs. 3,015 was prepared but the work could not be taken up as the majority of land owners were not willing to pay any cess as required by the Irrigation rules.

(*d*) This does not arise in view of the answer given to part (*c*) above.

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